HOLDING APPARATUS FOR MEDICAL IMPLEMENTS

BACKGROUND

[0001] 1. Technical Field

[0002] This invention relates generally to a holder for medical devices, and more particularly to a holder employing one or more medical implement receivers configured to hold both syringe caps and other devices, such as scalpels.

[0003] 2. Background Art

[0004] Surgeons and other medical professionals use a wide variety of tools, implements, and devices when performing medical procedures. For example, in even the most routine surgery, a surgeon may employ multiple scalpels for cutting, needles for suturing, and syringes for injecting medications into drip bags, as well as specialized tools associated with a particular procedure. Nurses and other medical professionals are sometimes tasked with organizing the various implements. This is frequently accomplished by spreading the tools and implements in a loose fashion across a tray. The nurse may additionally be asked to hand each device to a doctor.

[0005] One problem associated with this organizational arrangement involves the sharp edges associated with many medical implements. For example, scalpels have razor sharp edges designed to cut skin. Similarly, syringes have hypodermic needles attached that are designed to pierce skin. When preparing for surgery, some medical professionals will remove all protective coverings so that the implements are ready for use. The coverings may be left off during the procedure so that the tool or implement may be used multiple times. This presents a risk that the medical professional will be inadvertently injured when grasping for the implement, as medical professionals need to be able to quickly access these implements so that they are ready exactly when needed. Additionally, there is a risk that one of the medical professionals will be inadvertently injured when the implement is handed to another person.

[0006] There is thus a need for a holder for these medical implements that can be used for both organization and to help prevent inadvertent injury.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0007] The accompanying figures, where like reference numerals refer to identical or functionally similar elements throughout the separate views and which together with the detailed description below are incorporated in and form part of the specification, serve to further illustrate various embodiments and to explain various principles and advantages all in accordance with the present invention.

[0008] FIG. **1** illustrates a perspective view of one holder configured as a medical tray in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0009] FIG. **2** illustrates a plan view of one holder configured as a medical tray in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0010] FIG. **3** illustrates one embodiment of a holder having a scalpel, syringe needle cap, and syringe and syringe needle cap assembly in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0011] FIG. **4** illustrates one medical tray having a detachable lid in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0012] FIG. **5** illustrates one medical tray having a hinged lid in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0013] FIG. **6** illustrates an alternate embodiment of a holder configured as a medical tray in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0014] FIG. **7** illustrates one system for containing medical implements in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0015] FIG. **8** illustrates another system for containing medical implements in accordance with embodiments of the invention.

[0016] Skilled artisans will appreciate that elements in the figures are illustrated for simplicity and clarity and have not necessarily been drawn to scale. For example, the dimensions of some of the elements in the figures may be exaggerated relative to other elements to help to improve understanding of embodiments of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] Embodiments of the invention are now described in detail. Referring to the drawings, like numbers indicate like parts throughout the views. As used in the description herein and throughout the claims, the following terms take the meanings explicitly associated herein, unless the context clearly dictates otherwise: the meaning of "a," "an," and "the" includes plural reference, the meaning of "in" includes "in" and "on." Relational terms such as first and second, top and bottom, and the like may be used solely to distinguish one entity or action from another entity or action without necessarily requiring or implying any actual such relationship or order between such entities or actions. Also, reference designators shown herein in parenthesis indicate components shown in a figure other than the one in discussion. For example, talking about a device (**10**) while discussing figure A would refer to an element, **10**, shown in figure other than figure A.

[0018] Embodiments of the present invention provide various arrangements of medical trays and holders for retaining medical implements. For example, in one embodiment a medical implement holder is configured as a tray having a base member and one or more medical implement receivers configured to hold scalpels and other thin medical implements. In one embodiment, each medical implement receiver includes two retention members having slots cut into their faces. When configured in this fashion, the medical implement receivers are configured to receive syringe needle caps, with the syringe needle cap rim fitting into the slot cuts. Where a syringe having the syringe needle cap attached thereto is inserted into these retention members, the retention members permit a medical professional to remove and attach the syringe needle cap to a Luer fitting or slip-tip fitting using only one hand. Further, the retention members hold the syringe in an organized and easily accessible manner when the needle is inserted into the needle cap.

[0019] The trays and holders described herein can be integrated with, or attached to, other medical trays. For example, in one embodiment a tray or holder can be attached to another tray configured with cup holders. Further, the cup holders and medical implement receivers can be color coded as well. Where a syringe having a syringe needle cap disposed in a pair of retention members is to be used with a cup of medication seated within the cup holders, color-coding provides